(a) whether the value of the Indian rupee has been continuously declining since July 3, 1991 against the Pound sterling;

(b) if so, the reasons for the all time low value of the Indian Rupee against the British currency in the first week of November this year; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to give stability to the value of the Rupee against the Pound Sterling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAMUR): (a) to (c). There has been a decline in the value of Indian Rupee vis-a-vis Pound Sterling since July 3, 1991. However, it needs to be kept in view that the exchange rate of the Rupee is fixed with reference to the value of a basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, upward or downward movements of the value of the rupee, which depend on fluctuations in the value of these currencies is a normal phenomenon. The Government has already undertaken a package of macro-economic stabilisation measures such as exchange rate adjustment, restoration of fiscal discipline and a tight monetary policy along with a structural reforms in the spheres of trade, industrial and public sectors. These policies are expected to increase efficiency and productivity, impart dynamism to the growth process and thereby provide a solid foundation for higher exports and overall growth. The recent trends in the levels of foreign exchange reserves and decline in the rate of inflation from the peak level of 16.7 in August to 13.7 per cent indicate that the overall impact of these policies have been favorable. Further measures may be taken as and when demanded by the emerging economic trends.

Development of Inland Water Transport

439*. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new schemes to develop Inland Water transport in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of West Bengal for development of waterways in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have sanctioned or propose to sanction the new scheme of the state; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(a) The Central Government is responsible for development of National Waterways. The State Governments are responsible for development of National Waterways. The State Governments are responsible for Island Waterways other than National Waterways. However, for the development of selected waterways which are not National Waterways the Central Government gives loan assistance to the States to the extent of 50% of the sanctioned cost. Details of new schemes as included in the Annual Plan 1991-92 for development of inland water transport, State-wise are given below:—

Sl.No.	*Details of Scheme*	*Provision in the Annual Plan 1991-92 (Rupees in crores)*	*States to be benefitted*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Scheme.			
(i)	Acquisition of Hovercraft.	3.00	West Bengal
(ii)	Acquisition of two oil tankers.	4.00	West Bengal/Assam
Inland Waterways Authority of India Schemes.			
(iii)	Terminal facilities between Haldia and Patna on National Waterway No. 1 (Ganga).	1.50	West Bengal/Bihar
(iv)	Infrastructural facilities between Patna and Allhabad on National Waterway No. (Ganga)	0.25	U.P./Bihar

Sl.No.	Details of Scheme	Provision in the Annual Plan 1991-92 (Rupees in crores)	States to be benefitted
1	2	3	4
(v)	Navingational aids on National Waterway No. (Ganga) Between Patna and Calcutta.	2.00	Bihar/West Bengal
(vi)	Acquisition of Dredger.	1.00	U.P./Bihar/West Bengal/ Assam
(vii)	Night Navigation facilities on Waterway No. 2 (Brahmaputra)	0.30	Assam
(viii)	Terminal Facilities on National Waterway (Brahmaputra)	0.70	Assam
(ix)	River Conservancy on Sunderbans	0.10	West Bengal
(x)	Development of West Coast Canal	0.50	Kerala
(xi)	Hydrographic surveys, technical studies, training, Research & Development etc. for other Waterways.	0.93	Various riverine States

Sl.No.	Details of Scheme	Provision in the Annual Plan 1991-92 (Rupees in crores)	States to be benefitted
1	2	3	4
Centrally Sponsored Scheme.			
(xii)	Improvement of canal between Madras and Kakinada Ports	0.20	Tamil Nadu/ Andhra Pradesh
(xiii)	Modernisation of jetties in Kerala	0.11	Kerala
(xiv)	Terminal facilities for ferry services across Hooghly.	0.25	West Bengal
	Total :	15.84	

The Union Government received a proposal from the Govt. of West Bengal for construction of five terminals for ferry services across river Hooghly at a cost of Rs. 2.25 crores under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme has since been sanctioned on 25th November, 1991.